

JAPANESE ART.

We quote from the advance sheets of Professor Raphael Plumley's work, entitled "Aerona America and Asia," the following interesting essay on Japanese art, contributed by Mr. John La Farge.

character of the human form, and since drawing may be divided into the drawing of form and the drawing of motion, they may lay claim to a full and consummate ownership of the latter. If their modes shook our own conventionalities, we cannot gainsay that never before have artists so lived at home with animals and plants; never has artistic skill held under a more subtle sway the thoughtless tribes of sea and air.

Japanese art that deeper individual personality—the glory of our greatest art—and which may perhaps be connected (however illogically it has been proved) with the education of the Western world by Christianity. That attempt at bringing to the surface some of the subtlest, deepest, and most complicated feelings of the mind, which is the soul of the works of Leonardo, of Michael Angelo, of Rembrandt, has had apparently no exemplar outside of modern and Christian Europe.

Inquiry into Japanese art would give material for appreciation of the social state of the artist-workman in medieval times and in a military race, or again in Pagan antiquity, and for a study of the advantages and disadvantages connected with a fixed social condition; to which comparison the dogmas and differences with their Chinese brethren will add help. But it must now be sufficient to this art, which helps to bridge the gulf between us and the Eastern gardens. It can be the source of useful influences from a living school, equal to any in the study of nature and the use of decoration; and it offers, to all those willing to put themselves in the proper mood, a new and fresh fountain of imaginative enjoyment.

The Empress of the French at Constantinople. A correspondent writes from Constantinople under date of October 13, as follows:— It was a beautiful sight when the Empress' yacht, along with several yachts, came today into the Bosphorus, which was almost literally covered with canoes. The Empress was on deck with half a dozen other ladies all the time. In about ten minutes the Sultan, who had been waiting her arrival at the palace, came out to her yacht in one of the most magnificent boats, manned by twenty men, with a gorgeous throne and canopy at the stern. After some difficulty in getting alongside the yacht, the Sultan rushed up the stairs with no little embarrassment. She met him at the top with a cordial greeting, but did not kiss him, remembering, perhaps, her own feelings when she saw Napoleon kiss Queen Victoria. They then fell back and looked at each other a moment. As they could not talk they did the next best thing; they bowed at each other, and then the Empress went down into the Sultan's boat. He followed immediately, and they sat side by side. She wore a plain high-necked dress of straw-colored satin, with a trail two yards long, and a bonnet of the same color. The current in front of the palace is very strong. Five hundred canoes and twenty-five steamers crowded with people were jammed together in horrible confusion, and I can hardly understand how they all got out of it without loss of life. The Sultan, on landing, conducted the Empress to her apartments and left her to rest there for some minutes. He then presented to her all the Ministers of the Sublime Porte and the functionaries of the palace, and hastened across to his official palace at Dolma Baghche, whither the Empress followed him in about an hour, to pay her respects to the Valide Sultana (Sultan's mother). This old woman is, by unalterable custom, seated within the palace, and she does not at all approve of the way in which the Sultan is disgracing himself with this bold-faced infidel woman. She has thrown every possible obstacle in her way, and made herself just as disagreeable as she dared. She could not refuse to see her today, but she overruled the arrangements of the Sultan by refusing to receive the Empress with Mustapha Pasha's daughter as lady in waiting and interpreter. She said she would teach Mussulman girls not to learn infidel languages and not to assume infidel customs. The visit of the Empress to her was short and formal, and she passed out of the harem into the apartments of the Sultan to dine with him in state. No doubt the Valide Sultana ground her teeth with rage, and no doubt she will rate the Sultan for his indecent violation of all propriety; but the deed is done, and she will rave in vain. A shameless female gauler has gone where even the Sultan's mother was never permitted to go. This shows more real pluck on the part of the Sultan than you can well realize. Thursday, Eugenie received the diplomatic corps at Beylerbey. In conversation with Mr. Morris, our Minister Resident, the Empress declared that there was nothing she more desired than to visit America—that she was only waiting for some pretext for going, which she hoped would be found before long. She conversed with all the ladies in their own languages. She speaks English remarkably well, and certainly looks more like an English than a Spanish lady. During the reception she wore a robe of amber satin, with a very full train (with hoops, too, I believe), trimmed with mauve velvet; her bonnet was also amber colored. Her only jewelry was a pearl necklace, and she wore no earrings.

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